



To: Principals, School Counselors, and ESL Coordinators

From: Project Stepping Stone and National Society for Hispanic MBAs

Date: Monday, April 14, 2008

Re: The Project Stepping Stone "One Student Per School" Challenge

*One hundred Hispanic students from across the State of Indiana will come together this June for a life changing program. With the help of over 200 volunteers and 50 business sponsors these students will celebrate their heritage, learn about the incredible opportunities that education provides, develop their leadership skills and commit to helping others in the community. **Our mission is to foster Hispanic leadership through education and giving to improve society.***

**We challenge you to encourage at least one Hispanic student from your school to apply for the program!**

**What:** Project Stepping Stone - a FREE one week program for Hispanic high school students that focuses on the importance of college education.

**When:** June 8 - June 14th (7 days and 6 nights)

**Where:** Indianapolis is the host city. Students will stay at IUPUI for 2 nights, at Ball State University for two nights, and at Marian College for two nights. Students will also spend time at Ivy Tech College, Cummins Inc. and Eli Lilly headquarters.

**Who:** Hispanic high school students across the State of Indiana - primarily today's Juniors (1st), Seniors (2nd) and Sophomores (3rd). (Students may be documented, undocumented, any generation, Spanish and non-Spanish speaking)

**Why:** America needs our Hispanic youth graduating from high school and college. Statistics show that 1:5 teenagers today and 1:3 individuals under the age of 18 are Hispanic, yet barely 1:2 Hispanic students graduate from high school. We must change this and encourage these students to look to the future and help to grow our great nation.

**How:** Applications and brochures can be downloaded from the Project Stepping Stone main site: [projectsteppingstone.com/main](http://projectsteppingstone.com/main)  
This includes pictures, videos, applications, and more.

### **Urgent:**

The deadline is rapidly approaching. Our target is April 15th but we know many students will wait to the last minute to apply: so while we will accept applications until the end of the month we would rather emphasize that the deadline is upon us and ACTION is due NOW!

### **Your Help:**

The students do need guidance in filling out the application - particularly the essay: they must also provide a transcript and a letter of recommendation. While this program is phenomenal for the students it amazingly is a tough sell. Parents are nervous about sending away their children for one week. Students don't think they have a chance at going to college so why bother. Students are in summer school or need to work for money. There are too many excuses when the fact is they must Wake Up! They must first know that they can have a better life and the only one that prevents them from this is themselves. Your guidance will help them to the program and we will take it from there.

*Project Stepping Stone participants form life long friendships and connections with other students and leaders in the Hispanic community. Students and mentors become a support structure that never ends. We will help the students and the students will help younger students. One day these students will be the leaders of the program and businessmen, doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers and much more.*

**\*\* Thanks to Bluffton, Elkhart, Columbus North, Thomas Carr, Lawrence Central, and Pike Twp for sending applications in early!**

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